

# Family Education Newsletter

KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

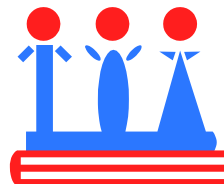
JANUARY 2004

## SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS...

Often, your child who is deaf or hard of hearing tells you that they do not enjoy the holidays. Christmas and other family gatherings are supposed to be special, happy times and you wonder how to help. You want your child to have good memories and strong relationships with grandparents, cousins, and others. Most often, their frustrations come from not being able to communicate well with other family members who are visiting for the holidays. Or, your family might travel to visit relatives with whom your child can't communicate in addition to not having any of their 'normal' friends, toys, and activities available. They see everyone else laughing and having a good time. They feel left out and bored. Here are some ideas from KSD staff members who have had to deal with this same situation.

- ❖ Encourage cousins and others to learn to sign. Take some sign videos with you or signing board games ("Sign It!", "Keep Quiet", and other games and videos are available from Harris Communications catalog: [www.harriscomm.com](http://www.harriscomm.com) or call 800-825-6758)
- ❖ Give them some basic tips on how to communicate (look at your child, write notes, avoid bright lights, etc.)
- ❖ Play "Uno," "Charades," and other games that do not require a lot of talking so that your child can participate equally.
- ❖ Take a computer or TTY so people can write notes back and forth to your child
- ❖ Have one meal be a "silent dinner" where everyone has to turn OFF their voices. People will learn gestures and signs faster this way.
- ❖ Talk with your child and let them know that you really do understand their frustrations. You can do your best to help but there will always be times in your child's life where they have to deal with this. Help them think of ways to cope, how to develop patience, and find ways to have fun in spite of the frustrations.
- ❖ Make a family scrapbook or photo album ahead of time so your young child will know who is who in the family.
- ❖ Let your child help you make cookies! Or, you can make cute, paper snowflakes. Fold white or shiny paper until it's small enough and cut different shapes and unfold it! Hang it on tree!
- ❖ Have parents/others inform the child/teen ahead of time what will be going on, where they are going and who they will see. Many times my family just told me to get in the car right then and there and especially when I was older, I didn't have a chance to "get ready" like the others did. I also wanted to know who would be there. That gave me something to look forward to.

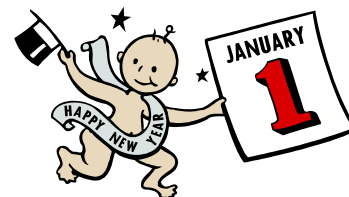
*continued on page 2*



Supporting our children through home-school communication.

### Inside this issue:

Athletic Events	2
Congratulations!	2
Bits and Pieces	3
Sign Class	
PTCA	
KSD Museum and more!	



The Kentucky School for the Deaf's FAMILY EDUCATION NEWSLETTER is published monthly during the school year.

Clip art is downloaded from Microsoft at [dgl.microsoft.com/?CAG=1](http://dgl.microsoft.com/?CAG=1)

K.S.D. provides equal education and employment opportunities M/F/D

Visit the KSD Homepage at [www.ksd.k12.ky.us](http://www.ksd.k12.ky.us)

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PO Box 27  
Danville, KY 40423



## HOLIDAY TIPS continued from page 1

- ❖ It is good to inform the child who gave mom her presents, gave dad his presents etc. Many times I would ask who gave them certain things because it looked neat and I had no idea who gave what to whom...
- ❖ Let the child help give out the presents so that they read and will learn who is who etc and it is fun for them and an easy way to be involved. Also, help with dinner. Younger kids can help with the easy things like opening the olive can and putting the olives in a dish, same with pickles etc.
- ❖ "Many time the deaf or hard of hearing children are overwhelmed by the noise and confusion, especially if no one is making an effort to sign. Deaf children in these situations become isolated in a roomful of people. Consider how you seat people at holiday gatherings. Make sure that your child is near someone who will sign and be a comfort to him or her. If you are busy at family gatherings, make sure that your child has access to someone who will help him or her be a part of the group."  
(page 23)

Keys to Raising a Deaf Child by V. Frazier-Maiwald and L Williams

- ❖ " Family reunions bring generations of relative together, provide your child with the chance to get to know his/her extended family, and allow family members to update each other as well as feel a part of a community. Children should be involved in the entire process - making and sending invitations, planning activities, and cooking the meal. For the deaf child, learning about the planning process from beginning to end teaches him/her how to approach a task step by step. These are the kinds of incidental learning opportunities that deaf children often miss out on.



Have your child become familiar with the extended family. Use a family tree or other tool to explain how everyone is related. Have your child think of fun games that will help people mingle and in which s/he can fully participate. Perhaps arrange for an interpreter for portions of the event." (pg 121)

Kid-Friendly Parenting with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children by D. Medwid and D.C. Weston



## ATHLETIC EVENTS

### Boys MIDDLE SCHOOL Basketball (B and A teams)

Jan. 8 - Capital Day M.S.; away; 6:00/7:00  
 Jan. 12 - Berea M.S.; home; 6:00/7:00  
 Jan. 13 - Shepherd M.S.; home; 6:00/7:00  
 Jan. 20 - Frankfort Christian Academy; home; 6:00/7:00  
 Jan. 22 - Frankfort Good Shepherd; home; 6:00/7:00  
 Jan. 26 - Model M.S.; home; 6:00/7:00  
 Jan. 27 - Berea M. S.; away; 6:00/7:00  
 Jan. 29 - Sayre M. S.; away; 6:00/7:00

### Girls HIGH SCHOOL Basketball

Jan. 8 - Berea H. S.; home; 6:00  
 Jan. 9-10 - Kentucky Classic at KSD  
 Jan. 13 - Walden H.S.; away; 6:00  
 Jan. 22-24 - Mason-Dixon Tournament at the  
                   Louisiana School for the Deaf  
 Jan. 27 - Burgin H.S.; home 6:00

### Boys HIGH SCHOOL Basketball

Jan. 8 - Berea H.S.; home; 7:30  
 Jan. 9-10 - Kentucky Classic at KSD  
 Jan. 13 - Walden H.S.; away; 7:30  
 Jan. 22-24 - Mason-Dixon Tournament at  
                   the Mississippi School for the Deaf  
 Jan. 27 - Burgin H.S.; home; 7:30

### **CONGRATULATIONS to MICKIE BRUNTON:**

Mickie is the winner of the Jr. NAD Pageant. She won the platform, evening gown, talent, and question-answer presentations. She also won Miss Congeniality.

### **CONGRATULATIONS to JENNIFER HARRIS:**

Jennifer won first place in the Art Work contest at the Jr. NAD conference.



**KSD COMMUNITY SIGN CLASSES** - will begin on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. These sign classes are open to the public. They are every Monday night for 9 weeks and are from 6:30-8:30 each night. KSD family members do not have to pay the registration fee. Childcare is provided for families only. There will be more information sent home in January.

**KSD PARENT MEETING** - Plans are being made for a late-January parent meeting here on campus. This will be a very important meeting where families can meet with local legislators to learn more about how to participate in that process. Please plan to attend and share your ideas for KSD services.

**JOIN 'PARENT VOICE'** - The state of Kentucky is facing tough times. Someone needs to speak up for the youngest children. Kentucky legislators need to hear from you! If they don't, programs that currently support and provide much needed resources could easily be cut from the state's budget. *Parent Voice* is a grassroots effort to connect parents to Kentucky's legislative decision makers. If you have email access and are interested in helping, go to [www.parentvoice.org](http://www.parentvoice.org) and click on "sign me up!" or email to [info@parentvoice.org](mailto:info@parentvoice.org) with "sign me up!" in the subject line.

**THANK-YOU from the KSD PTCA** - The KSD PTCA recently held its annual candle sales fund raiser. Marsha Noel, PTCA Treasurer, reports that they made a profit of \$1,420. thanks to the hard work of our families. This money will be used to support parent meeting and family sign class childcare, workshops, graduation awards, and other projects.

**NEW VIDEO AVAILABLE** - The National Association of the Deaf has recently had the award winning video, "Sign and ABCs" closed captioned. It is available at [www.signit2.com](http://www.signit2.com) for about \$15.

**The KSD MUSEUM invites you to visit:**

Did you know??? KSD has a Museum! Jacobs Hall has many fascinating displays and information about the school's history. Tours are available Mondays-Fridays, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. When you arrive, please contact Mrs. Cloyd Naylor in Brady Hall. Rhonda Bodner will then meet you in Jacobs Hall and guide you through the Museum. Or you can call Mrs. Naylor in advance for a specific date and time to visit. There is no fee to tour the KSD Museum.



**WEST KY REGION 1 SERVICES FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING STUDENTS**

If you live in the far-west area of the state, Artie Grassman is available to provide a variety of resources and support. If you have questions about your child's educational needs (use of interpreters, help at ARC meetings, questions about assistive technology, etc.) please give her a call. The phone number is 270-293-8193 or email her at [artierod@bellsouth.net](mailto:artierod@bellsouth.net).

**CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES - BONNIE MYNEAR !**

Bonnie Myneear will retire on December 31 of this year. She graduated from KSD in 1961 and married Robert in 1962. She started working at KSD in 1975 and became a Teacher's Aide in 1979. Bonnie has worked with MANY of our students over the years. Currently, she works in Walker Hall. She is a very talented storyteller, often being asked to perform at local and state gatherings. Her wonderful smile and hard work will be greatly missed, but we do wish her the best of everything with her retirement!



## JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday, Jan. 4 - Dorm students return

Wednesday, Jan. 7 - Toddler Playgroup in  
Walker Hall at 12:30

Thursday, Jan. 15 - Student Homegoing at 1:00

Friday, Jan. 16 and  
Monday, Jan. 19 - **NO SCHOOL**

Wednesday, Jan. 21 - Toddler Playgroup in  
Walker Hall at 12:30

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